

CLAIMS:

1. DC/AC converter for supply of TL-lamps, comprising:

- a first input to be connected to a positive DC voltage;
- a second input to be connected to a negative DC voltage;
- a third input to be connected to a ground voltage;

5 - a series connection of a first, a second, a third and a fourth switch element between the first connection and the second connection;

- a first diode of which the anode is connected to the third input and of which the cathode is connected to the junction of the first and the second switch element;

10 - a second diode of which the anode is connected to the junction between the third and the fourth switch element and the cathode of the diode is connected to the third input;

- an inductor, connected between the junction between the second and third switch elements and a first output; wherein the TL-lamp is to be connected between the first and the second output;

15 - a second output connected to third input; and

- a control circuit for controlling the first to fourth switch elements, such that subsequently a ground voltage, a positive voltage, a ground voltage, a negative voltage and a ground voltage is obtained on the first output, wherein the TL-lamp is to be connected between the first and the second output.

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2. DC/AC converter as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the third input is connected to the first input by a first capacitor, and to the second input by a second capacitor, wherein both capacitors have substantially the same capacitance.

25 3. DC/AC converter as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that each of the switch elements is formed by a semiconductor switch element and that each of the switch elements comprises a bypass diode connected anti-parallel to the semiconductor element.

4. DC/AC converter as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the switch elements and the control circuit are incorporated into a single semiconductor chip.

5. DC/AC converter as claimed in any of the preceding claims, characterized in
5 that the control circuit is adapted to control the effective output voltage through pulse width modulation.